

## **Minutes of the Henry's Fork Distribution System Annual Meeting**

### **March 3, 2011**

The meeting convened at approximately 4:10 p.m. at the Schoolhouse in McKinnon, Wyoming.

Lee Sim called the meeting to order. Ben Anderson read the minutes of the 2010 annual meeting. Jon Wilde motioned to approve the minutes. Bob Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Todd Covolo was asked to report on the 2010 irrigation season. He reported the following:

- 1) Diversions on Middle and East Beaver were washed out during high flows.
- 2) In 2010, Regulation during the lowest flows were as follows:
  - a) Beaver Creek, regulated to 1908 and then 1889 Priority
  - b) Burnt Fork, regulated to October 15, 1882 Priority.
  - c) Henrys Fork didn't enter into regulation in 2010.
- 3) Interstate Canal Users made repairs on their Headgates at their Diversion.
- 4) Thompson Creek Diversion into Hoop Lake was also repaired.
- 5) Birch Creek was able to follow their rights without regulation.
- 6) Visited Middle Beaver and East Beaver diversions with Utah State Engineer's Office representatives and Orders were issued on the Gregory Basin Canal. (Gino Foianini expressed concerns that the commissioner doesn't have time to properly regulate these turnouts along the Gregory Canal.) The problem is Hoop Lake storage water sometimes doesn't make it down to the Burnt Fork users. Orders were established to improve the canal turnout headgates (1/year).
- 7) Control at the Burnt Fork split must only be managed by the Water Commissioner.
- 8) It was decided that Baldy Spring Ditch Water Users would first provide their own locking headgates and measuring devices. Once all the facilities are in place, the commissioner could serve these water users as the water master on the ditch, provided his hours spent on this ditch are tracked and billed directly to these specific water users for his services, and be separate from the Henrys Fork Tributaries Distribution System operation and assessments. Each Ditch user would pay an assessment to WY SE office based on the portion of water each receives on the Bally Ditch system and the commissioner's time and expenses associated with regulating the ditch. The WY SE office would oversee and manage the operation and assessments as if they were the irrigation company.
- 9) The commissioner reported the process to start a stream into regulation, which is a written request from a WY water user, upon which the commissioner has 72 hours to investigate and either approve or disprove regulation based on his findings.
- 10) Emphasized that one contact person per diversion is important during regulation.

Lee Sim requested a motion to approve the commissioner's report. Wade Stephens motioned to approve. Bill Gamble seconded the motion. Motion carried.

John Yarbrough of the Wyoming State Engineer's Office reported the 2010 Financial Report of the WY State Engineer's Office. He noted the commissioner attended some training in March and also received some benefit pay. The total expenses for 2010 were \$14,587.77, with Utah's 30% share being \$4,376.33.

John Yarbrough reported that some of the telemetry data was lost due to high flows during Spring Runoff. Most all of the stations are now back in operation. The telemetry data is accessible only by commissioner and the WY SE Office. It will eventually be available to the water users, as planned, but this is not up and running yet.

Snowpack in the Green River Drainage, NRCS, was 122% as of 3/3/2011. Other local measurements were reported by John Yarbrough: Hickerson 149%, Hole in Rock 144%.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

A short meeting with the Gregory Canal water users was held afterwards to review the operation of the canal and provide ideas/recommendations on how to best resolve the operational issues/difficulties facing these water users. Options included separating the canal into two canals, a pipeline bypass, and improving the facilities as planned. Water users expressed willingness to provide funds for telemetry equipment to be installed at the end of the Gregory Canal so those involved could monitor the outflow via Utah's website. This is based on cell phone coverage in the area. Transmission losses would increase if another canal is constructed for Hoop Lake Water. The costs of a pipeline would be prohibitive and water users were concerned about gravel and sediment problems associated with a pipeline. The canal is located entirely in Utah.

Attendees:

State Water Officials in attendance included:

Lee Sim, UT Division of Water Rights

Bob Leake, UT Division of Water Rights

Ben Anderson, UT Division of Water Rights

Andrew Dutson, UT Division of Water Rights

John Yarbrough, WY State Engineer's Office

Todd Covolo, Henry's Fork Tributaries Water Commissioner

See attendance roster for list of water users in attendance